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## Bringing New Books into the Classroom: A Review of 2014-2015 Children's Literature

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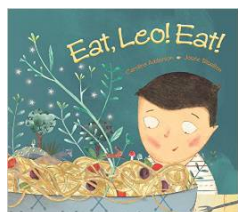
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# Bringing New Books into the Classroom: A Review of 2014-2015 Children's Literature

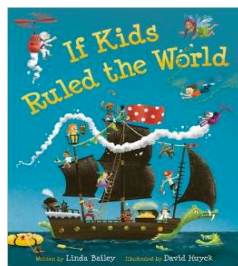
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***Eat, Leo! Eat.* Adderson, Caroline. (2015). Kids Can Press Ltd., Tonawanda, New York.**



In this day and age where developing an understanding of diversity is essential, this charming book is a story within a story. It tells about Leo and his family who gather together at Nonna's house every Sunday for lunch. The problem is that Leo does not want to eat. Nonna is very creative. She not only cooks all different kinds of pasta but she skillfully weaves them into an ongoing tale about a boy on his way to visit his Nonna.

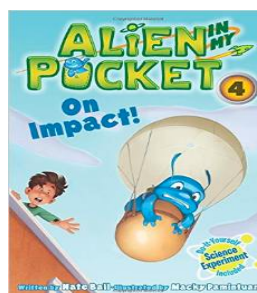
***If Kids Ruled the World.* Bailey, Linda. (2014). Kids Can Press Ltd., Tonawanda, New York.**



Children will enjoy reading this book because it allows them to imagine what they would do if they ruled the world. The book explores all the childhood fantasies that children have had if they were in charge. Of course, the parent or teacher reader should also discuss the idea of responsibility. If you are a leader, what is your responsibility?

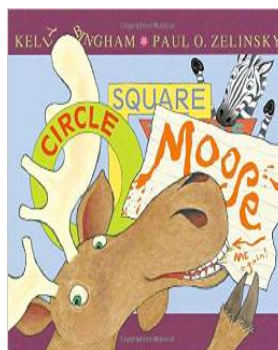
***Alien in my Pocket #4: On Impact.* Ball, Nate. (2014). Harper Collins Publishers, New York, New York.**

This is the fourth book in the series of *Alien in My Pocket*, written by the creative author who loves to bring science alive for his readers. Zack has adopted an alien who often creates interesting problems for him, like taking wires from his bicycle brakes. Zack crashes his bicycle and dislocates his



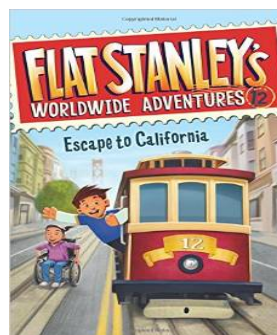
shoulder leaving him to worry about his baseball season. Only Olivia knows about Amp the Alien. Together Zack and Olivia deal with Amp and become involved in funny experiences. At the end of the book, the author presents the experiment from the story, which is interesting to reproduce. The book is good for second through fourth grade readers.

***Circle, Square, Moose.* Bingham, Kelly. (2014). Greenwillow Books, New York, New York.**



This book about shapes is interrupted by Moose who doesn't want to listen to the idea that he is not supposed to be in the book. He interrupts with his examples of shapes. Moose tries all kinds of ways to illustrate the different shapes while politely but firmly being asked to leave the book. Zebra helps Moose and they weave a tangled ending.

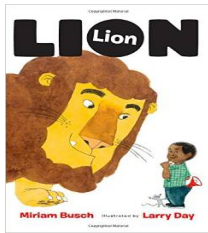
***Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures #12: Escape to California.* Brown, Jeff. (2014). Harper Collins Publishers, New York, New York.**



Once again Flat Stanley is off on an adventure. This book in the series written by Brown has him on vacation with his family in San Francisco where he is rescuing Lily who then kidnaps him. Lily makes a connection between Stanley and her because she is in a wheelchair. Can Stanley and his father really help Lily escape from Alcatraz?

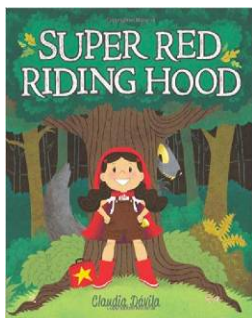
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**Lion.** Busch, Miriam. (2014). Harper Collins Publishers, New York, New York.



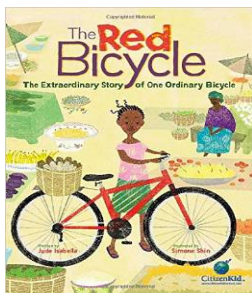
Different type of story about what animals could eat. Along with this the author cleverly reveals how to rescue food that you don't want an animal, like a lion, to eat. This well illustrated book by Larry Day draws you into each scene in the book.

**Super Red Riding Hood.** Davila, Claudia. (2015). Kids Can Press Ltd., Tonawanda, New York.



This is another in the series of books written about Red Riding Hood. In this book, Red Riding Hood's cape helps her to have super powers. Her mom sends her on a mission into the woods, to get raspberries. Along the way, she encounters the wolf and as a super hero, she cannot be afraid of him. With her flashlight and lunch box, she must resolve her fears.

**The Red Bicycle: The Extraordinary Story of One Ordinary Bicycle.** Isabella, Jude. (2015). Kids Can Press Ltd., Tonawanda, New York.

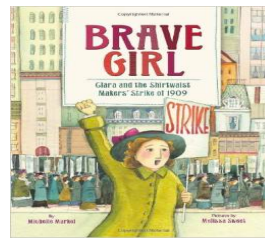


This book is written for upper elementary students. It describes how Leo works to buy a new bicycle by doing a variety of jobs, like mowing lawns. He loves his Big Red but unfortunately, eventually, outgrows it. The owner of the bike shop tells him to donate the bicycle to an organization that is collecting and sending them to people in need.

Thus begins Big Red's journey to Ghana to Allsetta, and others who use the bicycle for many tasks that help others.

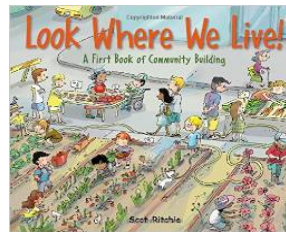
**Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike.** Markel, Michelle. (2013). Balzer & Bray. New York, New York.

Clara Lemlich arrives in New York with dreams about her new life. But she never dreams that she will become an activist for the rights of the workers in the factory in which she works. She organizes workers across the city. In spite of the fact that she is fired, jailed 17 times and has bones broken, she does not give up. Her strong spirit helps move the other



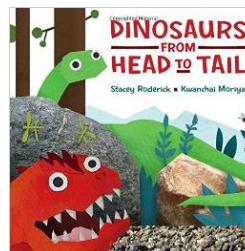
workers to strike and eventually bring the bosses to recognize their rights. The end of the book has some interesting information about the garment industry. Good for upper elementary students.

**Look Where We Live!** Ritchie, Scot. (2015). Kids Can Press Ltd., Tonawanda, New York.



Given that we are encouraging students to read more nonfiction text, this book gives students an overview of the community building and community service activities that children will appreciate. While there are a variety of characters, the text still illustrates how people function in a community. The Words to Know or glossary at the end was a good way to introduce this tool to students.

**Dinosaurs from Head to Tail.** Roderick, Stacey. (2015). Kids Can Press Ltd., Tonawanda, New York.



This book begins with a question about dinosaurs and follows through-out the book with more questions. Children have to guess the prehistoric creature on each of the pages. It is a good follow up for those who have been engaging children in conversation about dinosaurs.

**The Mermaid's Shoes.** Te Loo, Sanne. (2014). Lemniscaat USA, LLC, New York, New York.



Charming story about Mia who finds a pair of flippers and begins to think she is a mermaid. Mia uses her mother's dress to make herself look like she has the body of a mermaid. Then, she searches the areas of her community looking for the perfect place for a mermaid. Of course Mia who doesn't give up easily finds it and surprises and delights the reader.



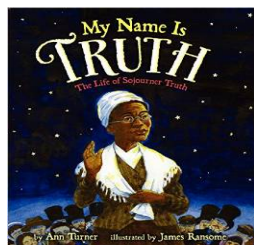
**Sport-O-Rama.** Tardif, Benoit. (2014). Kids Can Press Ltd., Tonawanda, New York.



nonfiction text.

A well illustrated text that presents a description of all the various sports that are available. The book indicates the type of sports that can be played. Equipment, skills and engagement are shown in a format that actively engages the reader. The Glossary is informative and the book can be used for teaching

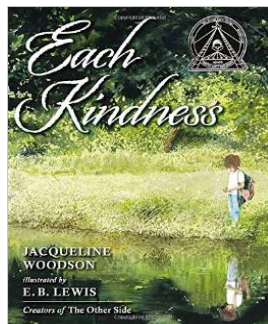
**My Name Is Truth.** Turner, Ann. (2015). Harper Collins Publishers, New York, New York.



rights woman.

A story that describes the life and time of Sojourner Truth. Students will feel a sense of sadness as they learn about Sojourner's life. But her strength and eloquent voice will amaze the reader. Well illustrated by James Ransome whose illustrations pay tribute to this famous civil

**Each Kindness.** Woodson, Jacqueline. (2012). Penguin Young Readers Group, New York, New York



always being alone. When Chole's teacher presents an activity about kindness, the idea, "Each little thing we do goes out like a ripple into the world, she thinks about it every day" has an impact on her. She realizes that she missed a chance at real kindness. She can never recapture the opportunity to help Maya because Maya has moved away.

At a time when bullying and unkindness are of concern in all our schools, this wonderful book illustrated by E.B. Lewis is a must for the opening week of school for elementary children. Chole repeatedly ignores, the new girl, Maya's attempts for friendship. Chole's friends make fun of Maya's clothes and the games she brings to school. Maya ends up

**The Queen's Shadow: A Story About How Animals See.** Young, Cybell. (2015). Kids Can Press Ltd., Tonawanda, New York.

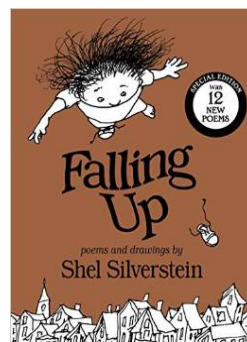


because they have interesting sight capabilities. Factual information is printed on the side of each page and the book has an extensive ending that describes vision and the attributes of the animals involved in the story. Good for upper elementary.

This unusual book combines fiction and nonfiction to solve the mystery of who stole the queen's shadow. The lights go off at a festive party the queen is giving and when the lights return her shadow is gone. The animal guests help her find the shadow

**Falling Up.** Silverstein, Shel. (2015). Harper Collins Publishers, New York, New York.

For those who love poetry, check out Shel Silverstein's



revision of **Falling Up**, Harper Collins. This 2015 edition contains fifteen new poems at the end of the book. The poems will delight all the readers, as do the illustrations. From *Writer Waiting to The Poet Tree*, each page enchants the reader as Silverstein crafts his magical web of wonder with words.

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